

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Arrests of Communists in Bulgaria

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1. The following Communists were recently arrested in Bulgaria:

Stefan Tonchev, the recently dismissed Minister of Railroads; Vasil Markov, assistant to Tonchev; Petko Kunin, the recently dismissed Minister of Finance; Georgi Petrov, assistant to Kunin; Stefan Bogdanov, the Head of Section "B" of the State Security Organization; some 30 government employees in the Ministries of Finance and Internal and External Trade.

2. Anton Yugov (a Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior until 7 August) is reported to be under house arrest; according to one version for attempting to oppose renewed Russian interference in Bulgarian Communist Party affairs.

3. The trial of Kostov, which will be held in the middle of November, will be on the lines of that of Rajk, involving the implication of Tito. [redacted] attempts to overthrow the regime. Following Kostov's trial a propaganda campaign will be launched in order to create the build-up for a referendum requesting support for a policy of economic union with the Soviet Union. 50X1-HUM

4. Not only the jobs of those whose arrest is reported in paragraph 1 above, but key posts in all Ministries [redacted] over by Russian personnel or, when [redacted] trained Bulgarians.

5. Traicho Dimitrov, who has been appointed Minister in charge of the "Political Directorate of the State Railroads" has recently returned from the Soviet Union.

6. Georgi Chankov, the newly appointed Minister of Transport, is said to be a member of the "Russian faction" of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

7. A Russian Commission has arrived in Sofia to prepare the case against Kostov and to supervise a purge of the Communist Party. The Commission is said to be headed by Lavrentiev. Its meetings are held in the Vanya Palace near Sofia, which was Dimitrov's residence and the meeting place

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of the Politburo.

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8. [] as a result of the dismissals of Kostov and Kunia no member of the Politburo is willing to take over the direction of economic affairs.

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* [] Comment: It is not known if this is the same Lavrentiev who was Soviet Ambassador at Belgrade during and after the Tito-Cominform split.

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